

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 087451

12

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION NATO

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 087451

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETEL, MARR, NATO

SUBJECT: NICS IMPLEMENTATION

REFS: A. USNATO 2173

B. AC/281-REPORT(74)1

C. AC/281-REPORT(74)2

D. AC/281-REPORT(74)3

1. WE SHARE YOUR CONCERN ABOUT THE LENGTHY SCHEDULE FOR THE NATO TELEGRAPH AUTOMATIC RELAY EQUIPMENTS (TARES) PROGRAM. HOWEVER, DOUBT EXISTS THAT A SIGNIFICANT COMPRESSION OF THE SCHEDULE CAN BE MADE IF THE TARES ARE PRO-CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 087451

CURED TO SATISFY THE PRESENT SPECIFICATIONS. THE CAPA-

BILITIES NOW DEMANDED OF THE TARES PRECLUDE USE OF OFF-THE-SHELF SYSTEMS. CONSEQUENTLY, NEW SOFTWARE AND, PROBABLY, SOME NEW HARDWARE MUST BE DEVELOPED BY THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER, A TIME-CONSUMING PROCESS. THE SYSTEMS NOW IN USE BY BANKS AND AIRLINES, CITED IN REF A AS EXAMPLES, DIFFER WIDELY FROM THE TARES AS NOW SPECIFIED. IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO ACCELERATE THE TARES SCHEDULE BY SCALING DOWN THE REQUIREMENTS TO BE SATISFIED INITIALLY SO THAT OFF-THE-SHELF SYSTEMS MAY BE PROCURED, BUT THIS COURSE HAS THE RISK OF CAUSING DETERIORATION OF NICS AS A TOTALLY ENGINEERED SYSTEM. WE BELIEVE THIS DECISION IS A TECHNICAL ONE APPROPRIATE FOR THE NJCEC IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE USERS, RATHER THAN THE DPC.

2. WE SUGGEST THAT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO STRONGLY ENDORSE THE MNCS VIEWS AS CONTAINED IN THE AD 70 SPRING REVIEW PAPER RELATIVE TO THE INADEQUACIES OF EXISTING COMMUNICATIONS WHEN IT COMES UNDER REVIEW BY THE DPC. IT IS IN THIS CONTEXT THAT YOU MAY WISH TO INVITE THE NATIONS TO ASSIST NICSMA IN COMPRESSING THE IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE BY ASSISTING THE AGENCY IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE. IT MAY PROVE USEFUL TO HAVE THE US REPRESENTATIVE PURSUE THIS ISSUE AS THE SPRING REVIEW PAPER IS REFINED IN THE EWG. (REFS B, C AND D REFER.)

3. WE ARE CONSIDERING RAISING THE ISSUE OF THE TARE SPECIFICATIONS THROUGH THE NJCEC. A FACTOR BEARING ON THIS IS THAT THE US MAY OFFER NATO THE USE OF AUTODIN AS AN INTERIM MEASURE TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS. A DECISION ON THIS OFFER IS SEVERAL MONTHS AWAY, BUT IF IT IS AFFIRMATIVE, THE OFFER LIKELY WOULD BE MADE PRIOR TO THE OCTOBER 19 NJCEC MEETING. WE SHOULD NOT TAKE ANY ACTIONS NOW WHICH WOULD FORECLOSE OUR OPTIONS ON OFFERING AUTODIN.

4. THUS, IN LIGHT THESE FACTORS BEARING UPON ACCELERATION OF NICS IMPLEMENTATION, WE DO NOT BELIEVE STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR TO DPC WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AT THIS TIME. UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, NICSMA SHOULD NOT BE BLAMED FOR A DELAY CAUSED BY ITS PROPOSAL TO REQUIRE TARES NOT

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 087451

READILY AVAILABLE, WHEN THAT PROPOSAL WAS ACCEPTED BY THE NJCEC. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT INTERVENTION AT THE DPC NOW RISKS BEING OFFENSIVE TO THE NJCEC REPRESENTATIVES WHO ATTENDED A SPECIAL NICSMA BRIEFING IN MARCH WHEN THE TECHNICAL REASONS FOR THE PRESENT DRAWN OUT SCHEDULE WERE PRESENTED, AND APPARENTLY ACCEPTED. RUSH

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